

## Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 USIE-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W

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O R 291228Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4582

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCUNC

COMNAVFORK

S E C R E T SEOUL 4189

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT

REF: SEOUL 4184

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SEOUL MORNING PAPERS JUNE 29 CARRY SUBSTANTIALLY SAME ACCOUNT OF KNMP BOAT INCIDENT. THIS VERSION, ATTRIBUTED TO ROK MND, RUNS AS FOLLOWS: BOAT SUNK BY THREE NK GUNBOATS IN EXCHANGE OF FIRE AFTER SURPRISE ATTACK. AT TIME OF ATTACK KNMP BOAT PLACED AT 129N, 38-28E. BOAT WAS NINE MILES SOUTH OF MDL WHEN ATTACH OCCURRED AND SANK THREE TO FIVE MILES NORTH OF MDL AFTER BEING PUSHED NORTHWARD BY ATTACKING NK SHIPS. SK BOAT WAS 25 EAST OF GEOJIN WHEN ATTACKED. ROKN AND ROKAF UNITS DESPATCHED TO AREA OF INCIDENT. ROKAF PLANES AND NK MIGS FLEW AS CLOSE AS TWO TO THREE MILES OF ONE ANOTHER DURING THIS ACTION. KNMP BOAT WAS PROTECTING SK FISHING VESSELS WHEN INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.

2. BOTH VERNACULAR DAILIES QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT

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SPOKESMAN AS SAYING NK ATTACK WAS QUOTE AN INDISCRIMINATE

AND OUTRAGEOUS USE OF FORCE ON A SHIP APPARENTLY NOT EQUIPPED WITH ATTACK CAPABILITY UNQUOTE. INDEPENDENT CHOSUN ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENT THAT QUOTE THIS ATTACK WAS ON A SHIP WHICH APPARENTLY WAS DISPLAYING NO HOSTILE INTENT UNQUOTE. ALSO QUOTED SPOKESMAN AS NOTING NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION THAT ATTACK OCCURRED 12 MILES OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. ALL PAPERS CARRY ACCOUNT ON PAGE ONE WITH CHARTS SHOWING LOCATION OF INCIDENT AND PICTURES OF 863. THREE PAPERS CARRY PICTURES OF CREW TAKEN WEEK AGO. GOVERNMENT KOREA HERALD CARRIES SIDEBAR QUOTE CHRONOLOGY OF ATROCITIES UNQUOTE ON PAGE ONE. NO EDITORIALS. END UNCLASSIFIED.  
COMMENT: BEGIN SECRET. JUNE 29 PRESS STORIES ARE A REVISION OF FIRST STORY PUT OUT OF MND THAT KNMP BOAT CAPTURED WELL SOUTH OF MDL. CLAIM THAT KNMP BOAT SUNK NOT YET FULLY CONFIRMED. WHILE CURRENT MND LINE ABOUT INITIATION OF INCIDENT STILL DOES NOT ACCORD WITH REALITIES AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, ADMISSION THAT BOAT WAS NORTH OF MDL ACCORDS MORE CLOSELY WITH REALITIES. WE BELIEVE SUGGESTED PRESS AND MAC LINE DESCRIBED PARA 7 REFTEL STILL VIABLE IN LIGHT OF REVISED MND ACCOUNT.  
HABIB

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, KS, KN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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